

North Carolina Onslow Bight Conservation Forum:

Regional Conservation Partnering to
Sustain the Mission and Enhance
Biodiversity

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North Carolina

Natural Heritage Program

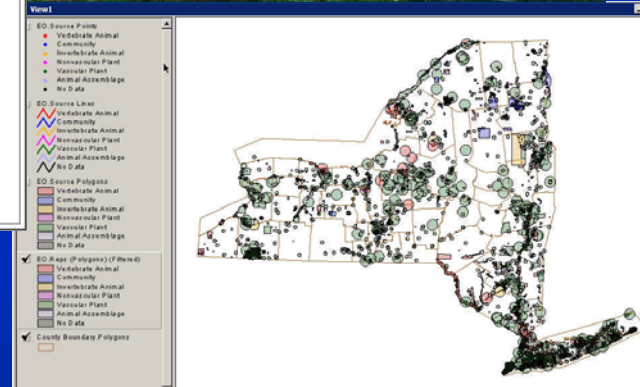
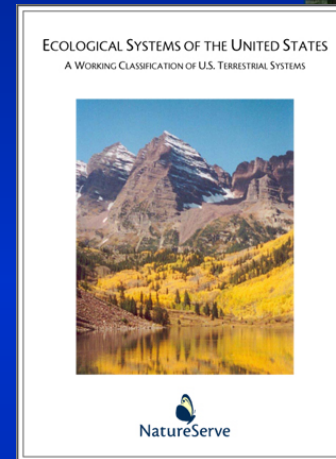
- Identify the most significant natural areas in North Carolina
- Work with landowners and conservation partners to secure natural area protection.
- Member of NatureServe



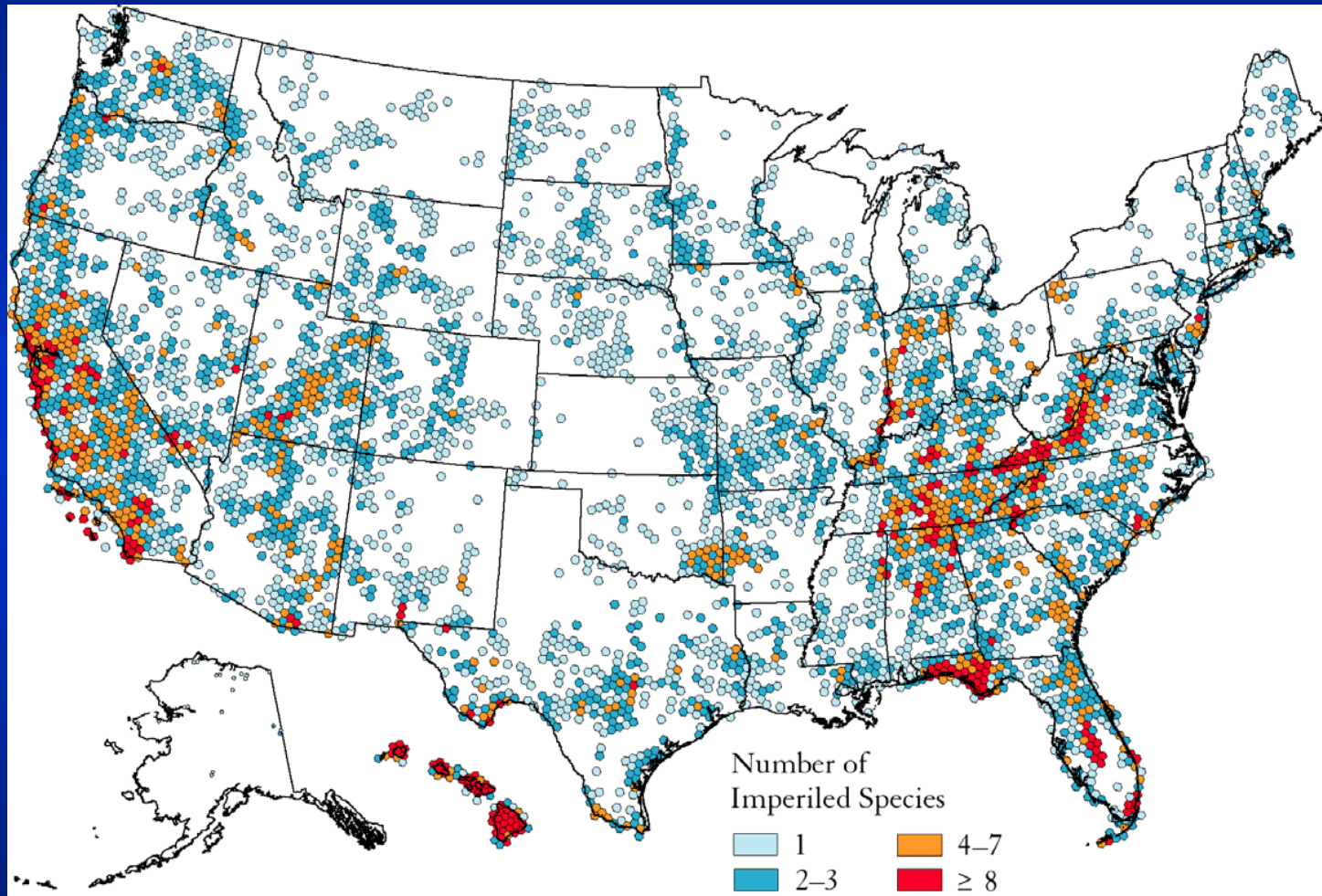
NatureServe

Network Connecting Science with Conservation

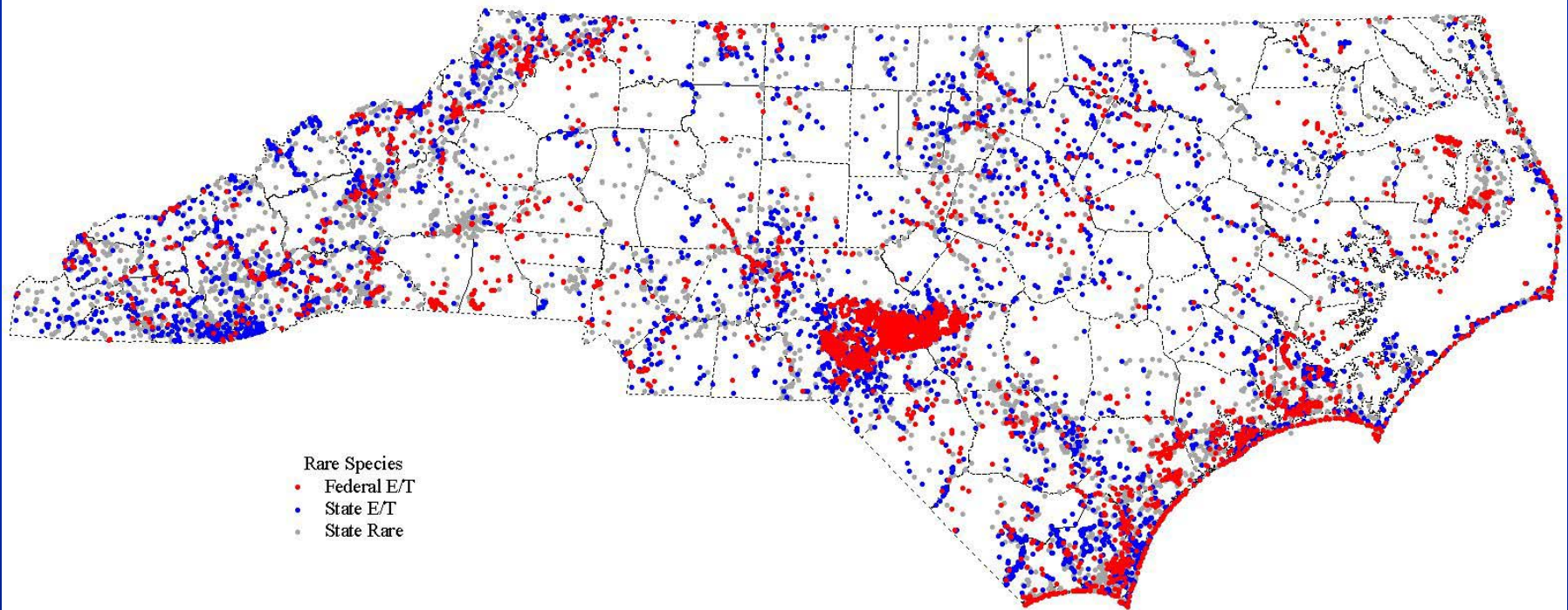
- Network of experts
- Scientific standards and methods
- Technology tools and infrastructure
- Conservation products and services



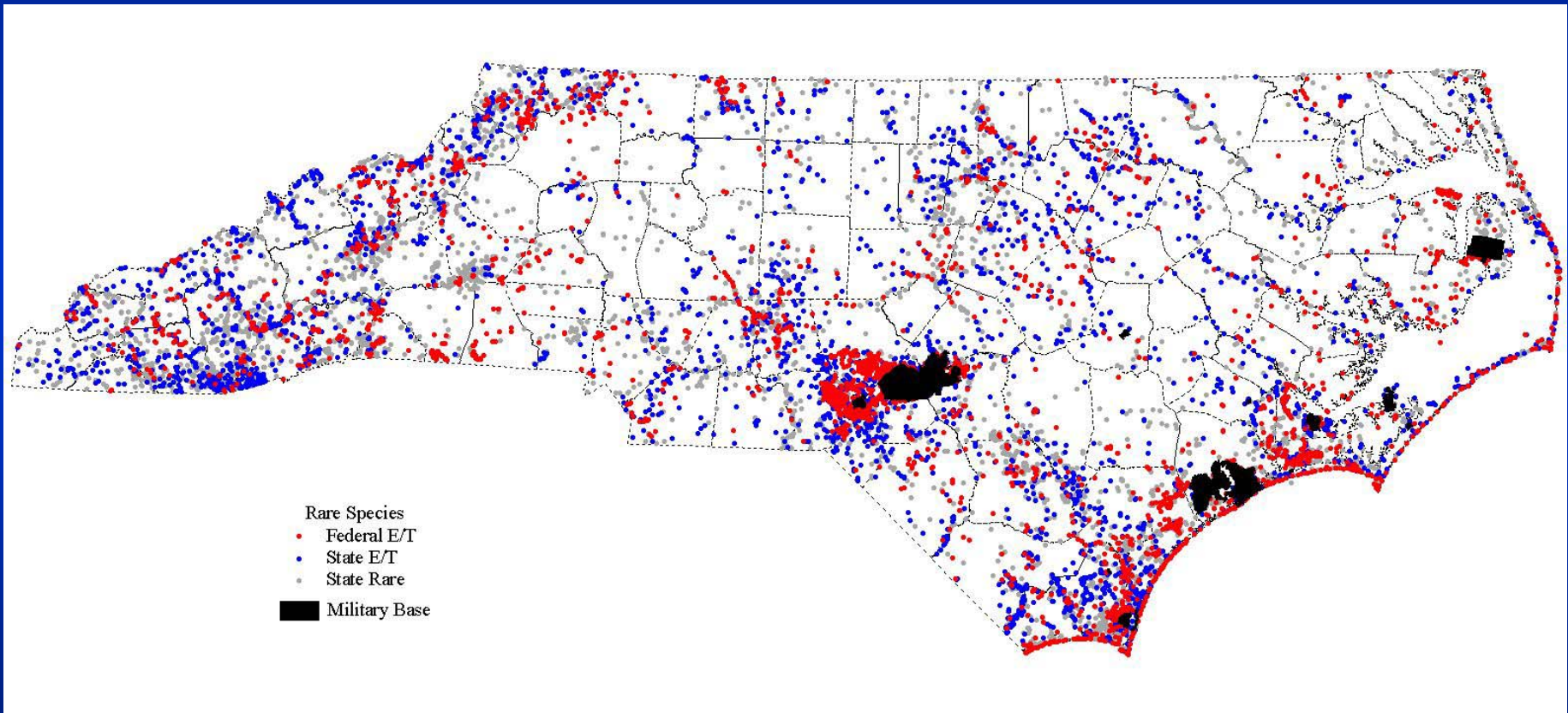
National Perspective



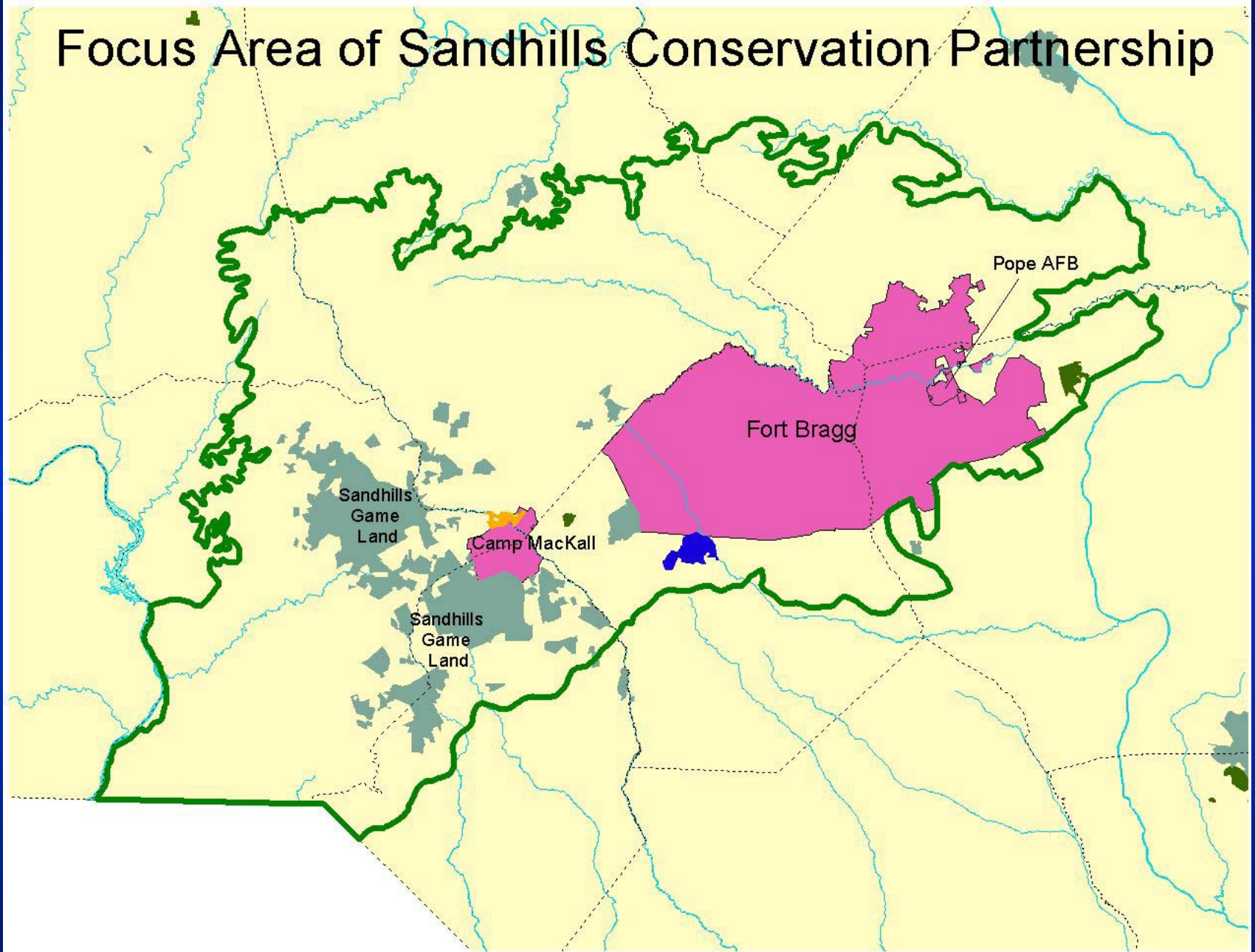
North Carolina Perspective



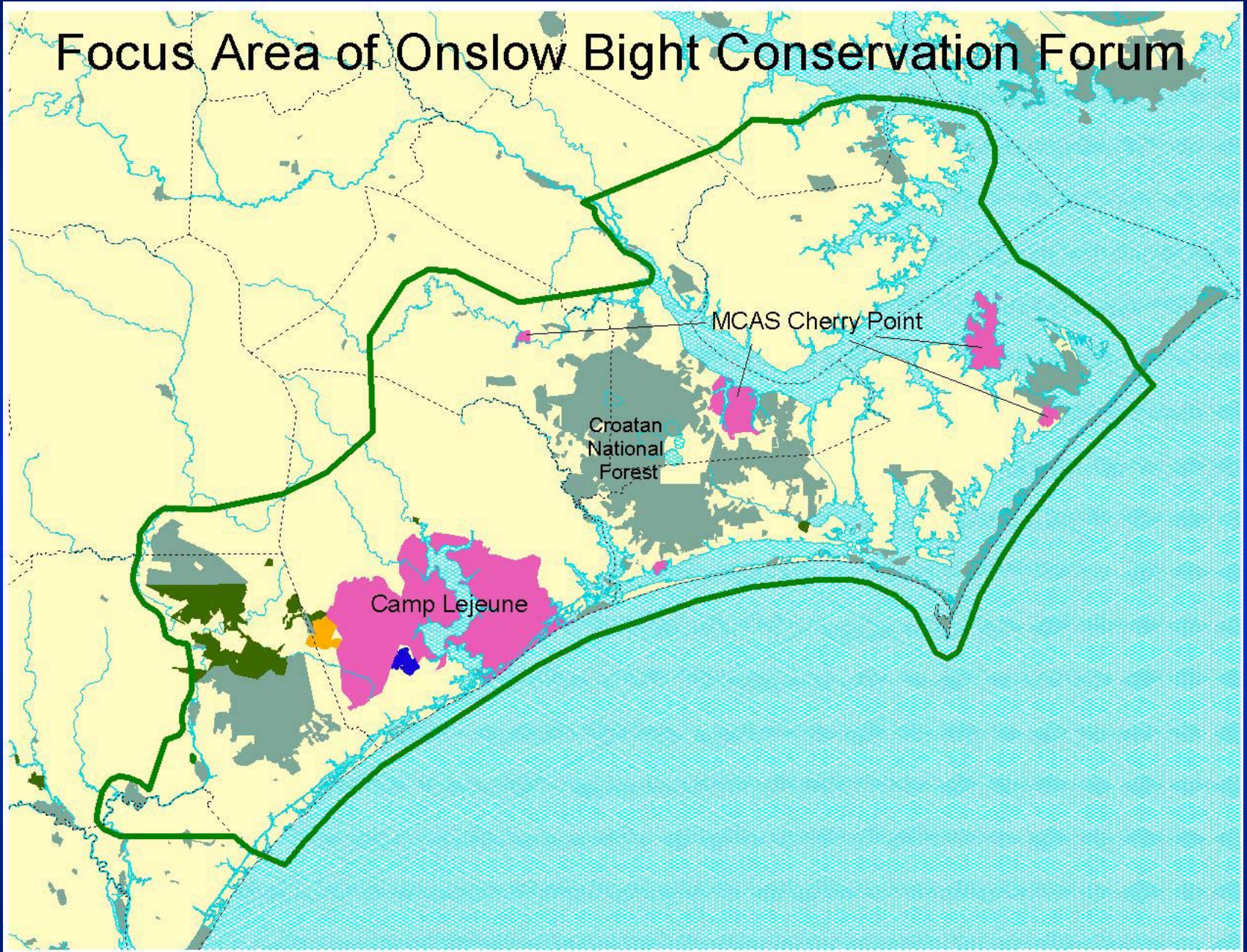
Relationship to DoD Lands



Focus Area of Sandhills Conservation Partnership



Focus Area of Onslow Bight Conservation Forum

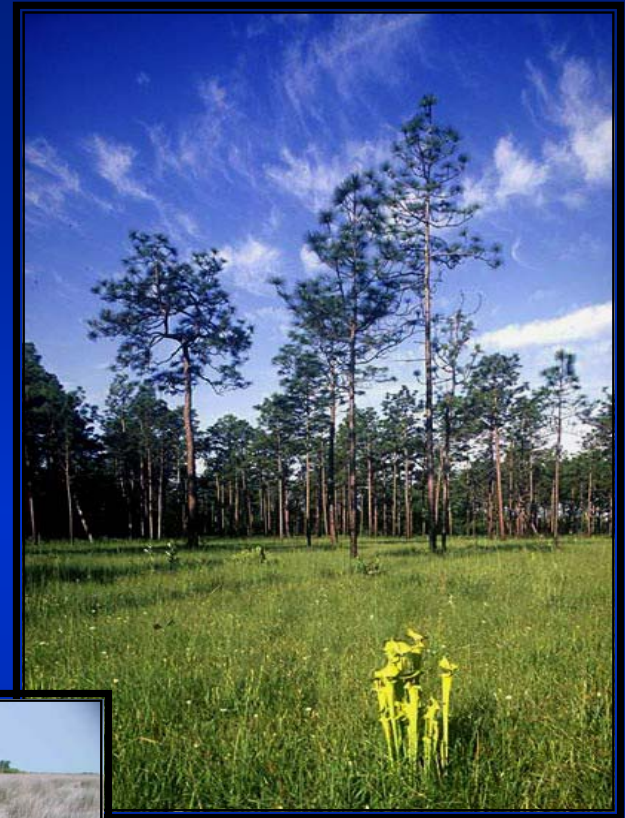


Onslow Bight Partners

- NC Dept. Env. & Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- North Carolina Coastal Federation
- NRCS (Nat'l Res.Cons. Service)
- MCB Camp Lejeune
- MCAS Cherry Point
- Endangered Species Coalition
- NC Wildlife Resource Commission
- NC Coastal Land Trust
- NC Dept of Transportation

Mission:

to develop and implement a strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity and ecosystem sustainability throughout the Onslow Bight Landscape compatible with the land use objectives of the partners.

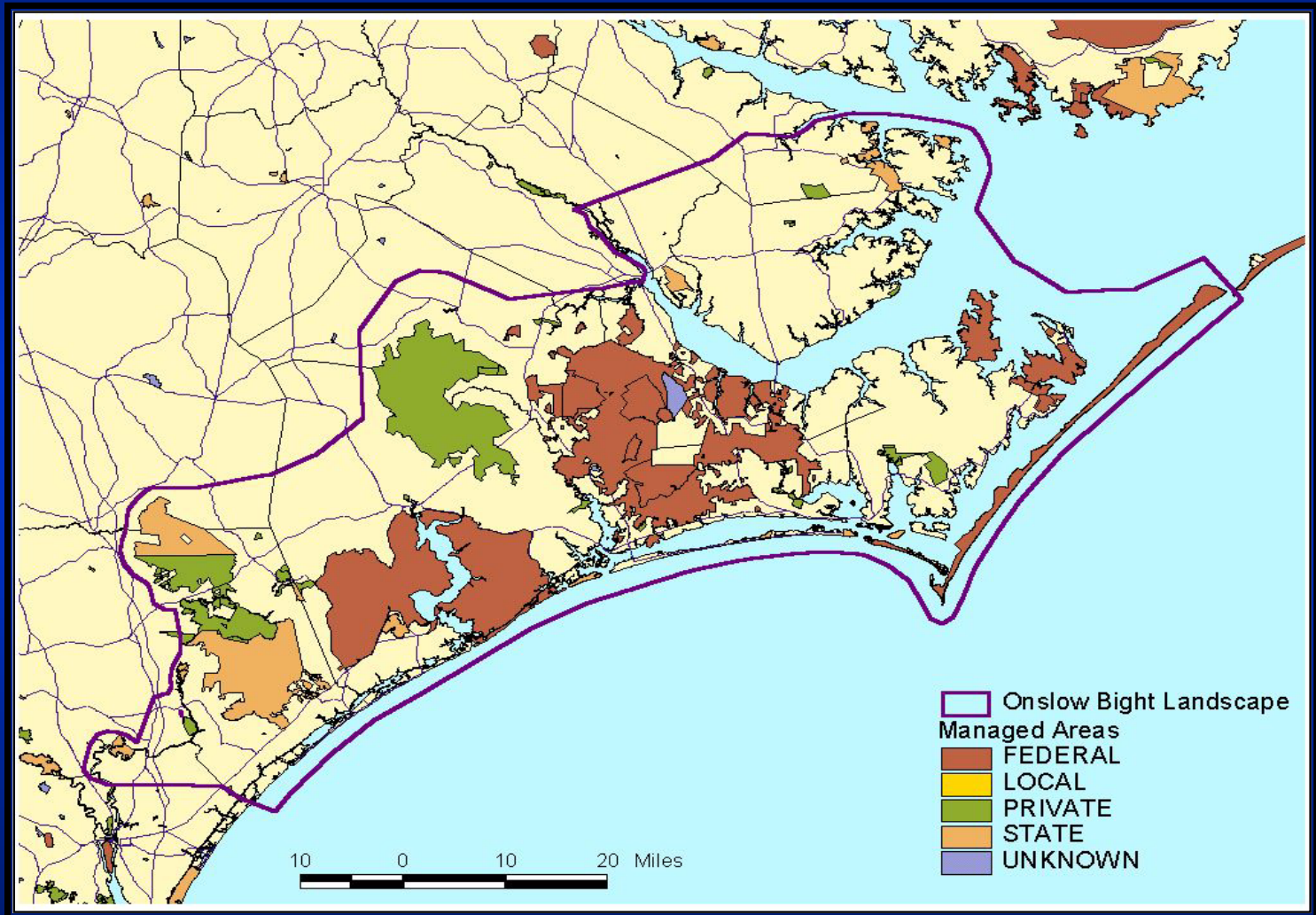


Onslow Bight Goals

- to encourage public/private partnerships among participating agencies private landowners
- to promote the conservation, restoration, health and and sustainable use of the landscape
- to enhance coordination among participants
- to encourage an on-going regional dialogue among participants about sustainable land management and native biodiversity
- to ensure the sustainability of the military mission in the Onslow Bight Landscape by preserving land uses suitable to military training



The Landscape



Conservation Targets

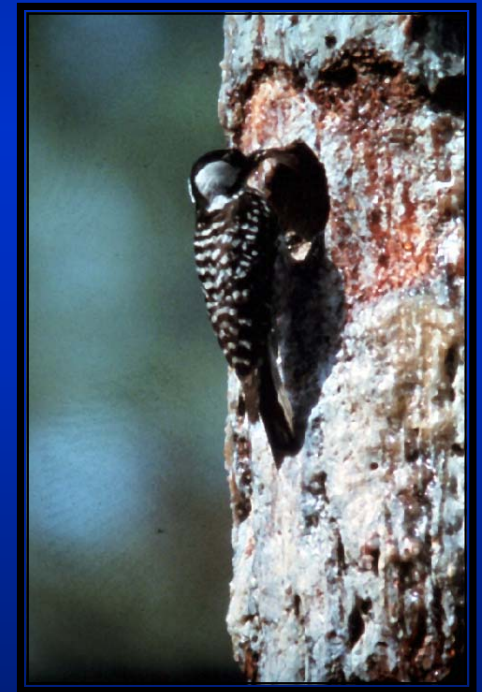
Terrestrial & Freshwater Targets

- Endangered & Threatened Species and their habitats
- Longleaf Pine and Pocosin Ecosystems
- Freshwater wetlands



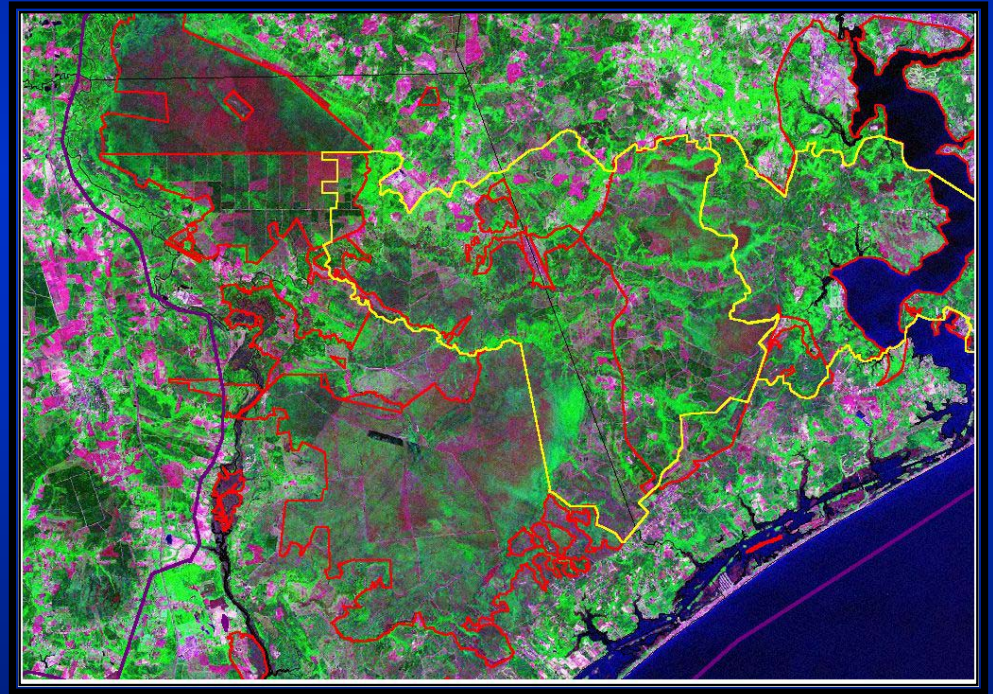
Barrier & Estuarine Islands

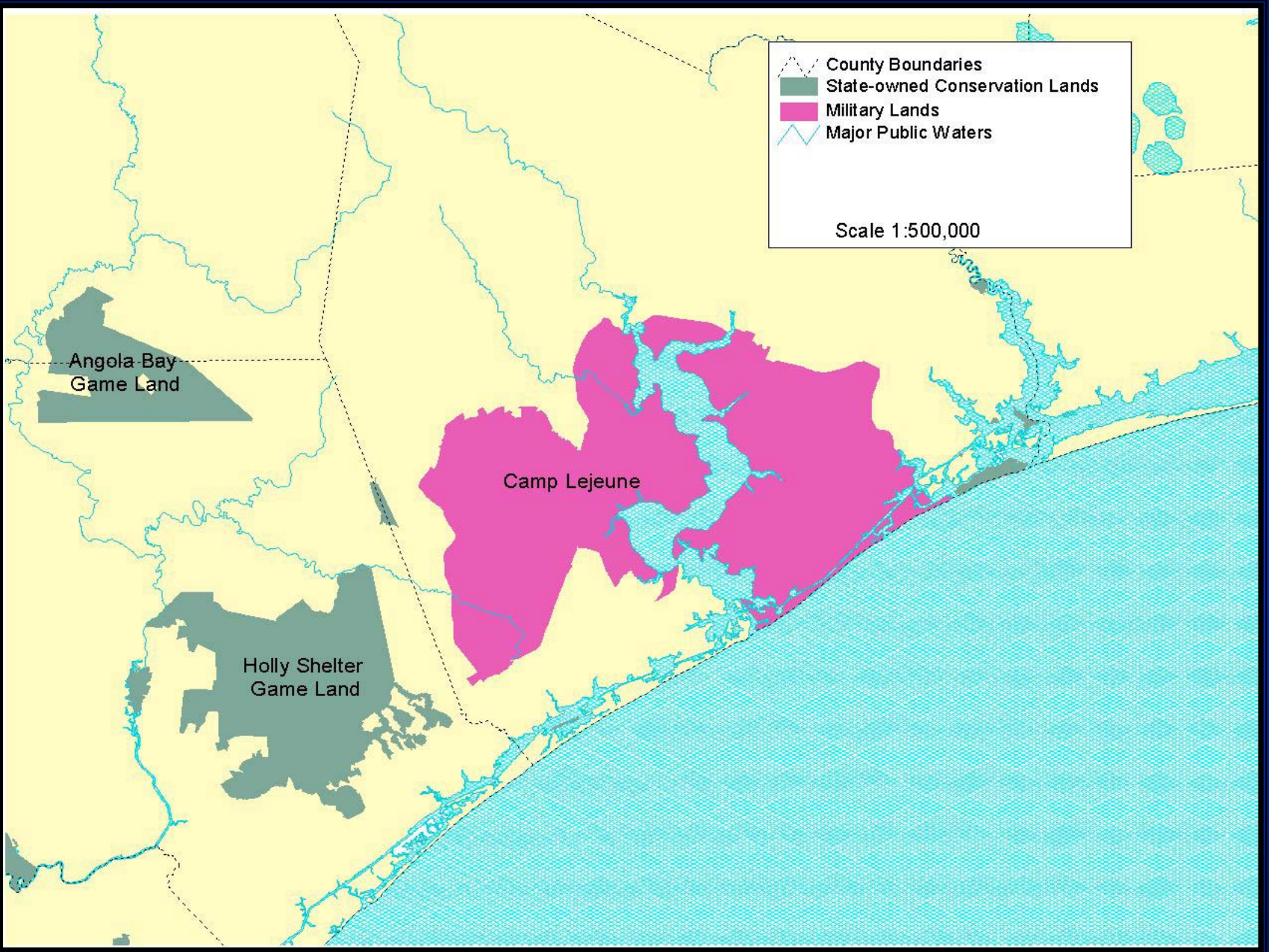
Marine Habitats

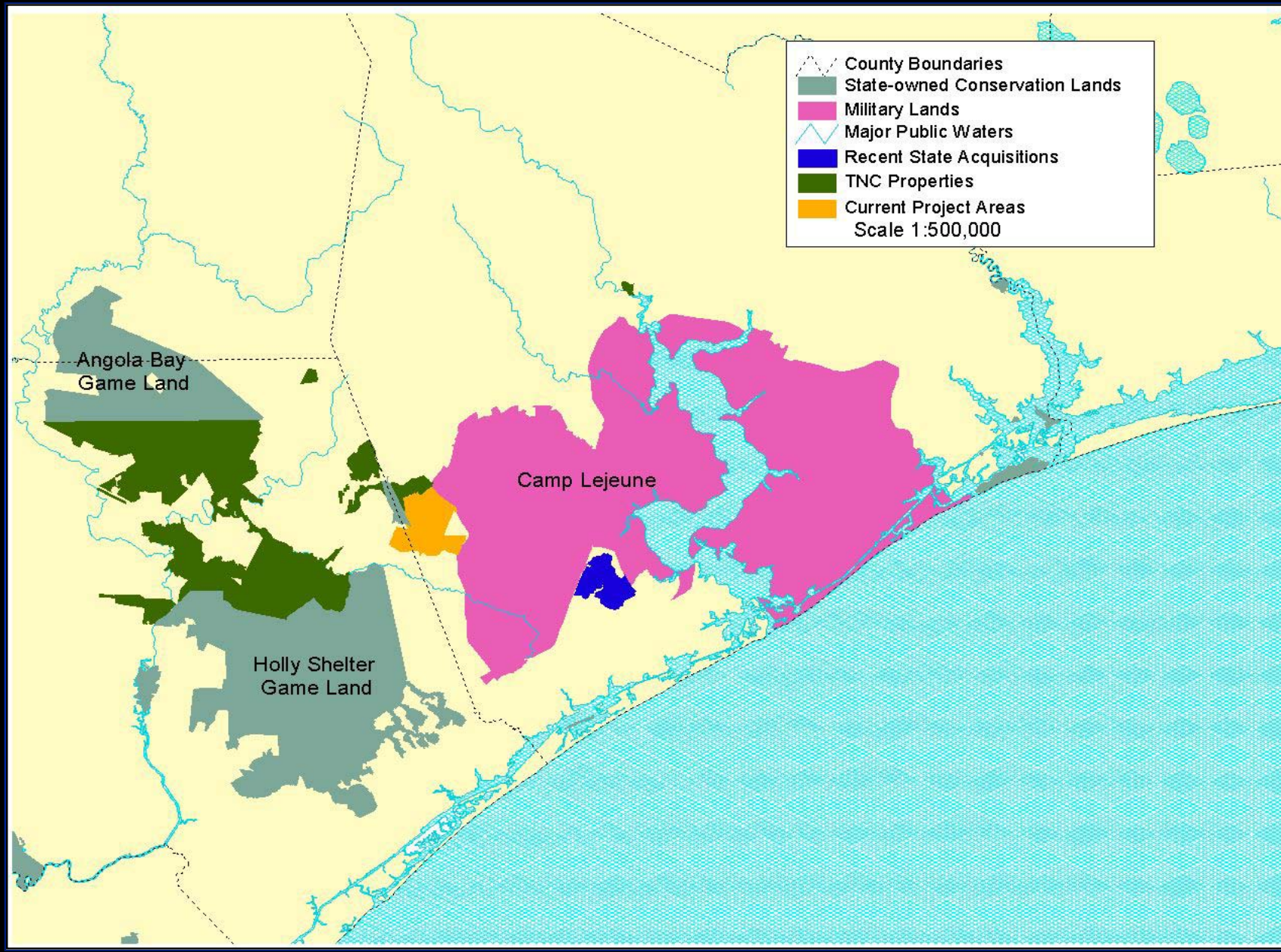


Planning Priorities

- Endangered Species Habitats
- Core Natural Areas
- Managed Lands
- Isolated Natural Areas
- Corridor Study Areas
- Buffers







Broad Conservation Corridors

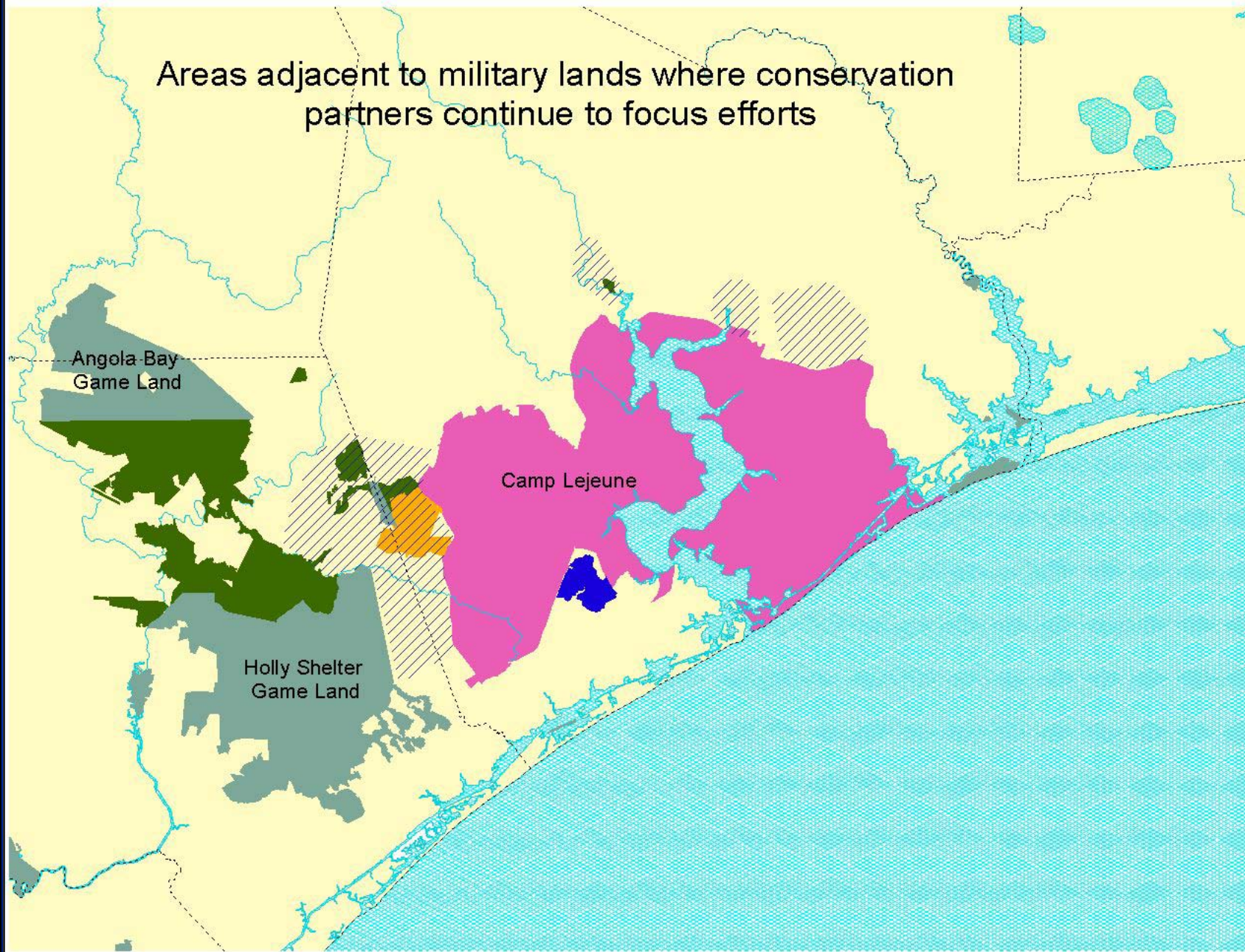
- Corridor study areas
- Wildlife habitats
- Reduce fragmentation
- Facilitate prescribed burning
- Identify partner interest
- Reduce encroachment

Areas adjacent to military lands where conservation partners continue to focus efforts

Angola Bay
Game Land

Camp Lejeune

Holly Shelter
Game Land



Specific Strategies for Protecting Conservation Targets

- Management of Core Areas and Corridors
- Working with Private Landowners
- Identification of Partnership Opportunities
- Acquisition of Priority Sites from Willing Landowners

Short-term Benefits

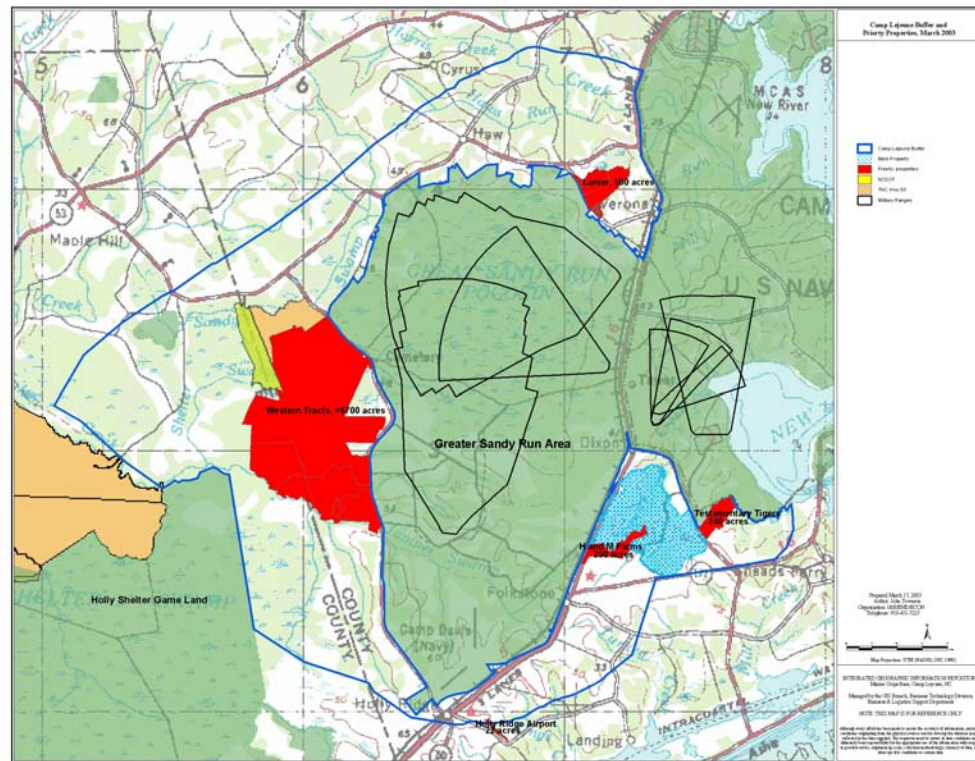
- Partnership on Beck tract
- Information in place to implement new state funding opportunity
- Sites identified by forum considered state priority for new mitigation program



Camp Lejeune Perspective on Conservation Partnership

- Provides expertise or access to important regional biological information.
- Facilitates access to state funding for conserving lands.
- Leverages scarce O&M dollars for conserving lands.
- Provides info exchange between installation and other land managers in the region.

Camp Lejeune Buffer



Partnership Summary

- Military Installations and Natural Heritage Programs are natural conservation partners in regional landscape.
- Leverages scarce Encroachment Partnership funds.
- Builds support for conservation initiatives.